

REMARKS

Claims 26-53 remain pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 26-53 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,842,166. A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 26-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,376,857). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejection, applicant elects to amend independent claims 26, 32, 39 and 47. As amended, each of independent claims 26, 32, 39 and 47 calls for only a part of the first electrode layer of the three electrode layers to be disposed between the diaphragm and the piezoelectric film layer. Thus, only one electrode layer is located between the diaphragm and the piezoelectric film layer. The second and third electrodes are not located between the diaphragm and the piezoelectric film layer.

In contrast to the claimed arrangement, Takeuchi teaches two electrodes located between a diaphragm and a piezoelectric film layer. This decreases the distance for

drawing voltage between the first and third electrodes which results in inefficient voltage amplification. On the other hand, with the claimed arrangement having only one electrode between the diaphragm and the piezoelectric film layer, the distance for drawing voltage between the first and third electrodes is increased. As a result, the claimed arrangement enables more efficient voltage amplification.

In view of the foregoing, it can be appreciated that Takeuchi fails to render independent claims 26, 32, 39 and 47 obvious. Likewise, Takeuchi fails to render dependent claims 27-31, 33-38, 40-46 and 48-43 obvious. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

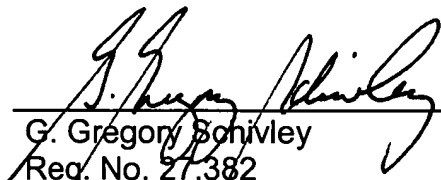
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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